

New Girl in Town

“It’s going to be a really bad day,” Jenna thought as she looked out her bedroom window. Heavy, dark clouds had gathered outside, and more than anything, Jenna wished she could climb back into bed. She just wanted to hide under her pillow. “Maybe no one will notice me,” she hoped. After all, she was the new girl in town. Today, Jenna would go to her new school, and she was scared.



“Jenna,” she heard her mother call. “Are you ready for school?”

“Not yet,” Jenna yelled back, in an unhappy voice. She looked in her mirror one last time.

“Please hurry,” her mother said cheerfully. “I put a bagel in the toaster for you.”

“Oh great,” Jenna frowned. “Just what I need.” Her stomach already hurt, and the last thing she wanted to do was eat breakfast. A horrible thought replayed in her mind: What if she threw up her breakfast at school? She would never live that down. This was going to be the worst day ever. Why had they moved?

But Jenna knew why they had moved. After losing her job, Jenna's mother warned her daughter that the two of them might have to move. When her mother received the good news that she would begin working for a newspaper, it was bad news for Jenna. The new job meant a move to a new city. They loaded up their things into a big truck and moved. So, here she was.

Jenna looked down at her outfit: new jeans and her favorite green T-shirt, and she hoped the other kids wore clothes like this. Maybe no one would even notice her. It was terrible to have to go to a new school without any friends.

<p style="text-align: center;">Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 3 LA.A.2.2.7 Compare/Contrast & LA.E.1.2.3 Sim/Diff Form C</p>

All of a sudden, Jenna heard a gentle tap on her bedroom door. Her mother peeked into the room and gave Jenna a big smile. “How do I look?” mother asked. She looked ready for her new job.

“You look great, Mom,” Jenna answered, giving as big a smile as she could.

Her mother came over and gave Jenna a big hug and kiss. “Would you like me to put your hair in a ponytail?” she asked.

“I guess so,” Jenna replied quietly. “Just don’t make it sit too high on my head.”

Jenna’s mother brushed her long, dark hair. She quickly pulled Jenna’s hair back and tied it with a green fastener. She turned Jenna around and gave her another hug. “You look great, sweetheart,” she said with another big grin. “I am sure you will have a wonderful day. Let’s go outside to wait for the bus.”

Slowly, Jenna followed her mother out of the apartment. It had started to rain, and the sky looked even grayer. Jenna saw a large group of children waiting at the bus stop. Her knees began to shake, and she wanted to run back inside.

Two of the girls in the group turned to look at her. One girl was tall with long, curly rings of dark hair and glasses. The other girl, who carried a huge, blue book bag, was short with blond hair. “Oh, no!” thought Jenna as the girls began walking toward her. She wanted to run away. For a moment, she thought of hiding behind her mother. Then, she noticed they were smiling.

“Hi!” said the tall girl with a big, friendly smile. “My name is Marie, and this is Lisa. You must be the new girl in the apartment building. My mom met your mom in the laundry room. Are you riding the bus today?”

“I...guess I am,” said Jenna in a shy voice, looking over at her mother. Her mom nodded back.

Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 3
LA.A.2.2.7 Compare/Contrast & LA.E.1.2.3 Sim/Diff Form C

“Great!” said Lisa. “We need someone to share a seat with us. If not, an older kid will have to sit with us.”

“Yeah,” Marie agreed. “When we get to school, we'll show you around. I just moved into the building last year. I know how hard it is.”

“And we are so glad that you are a girl!” added Lisa with a giggle. “There are way too many boys in our grade, so we needed more girls.”

Just then, a big, yellow bus rolled around the corner. Jenna’s mom gave her one last big squeeze and whispered, “I love you,” in her ear.

The bus slowed to a squeaky stop. After the door opened, the kids climbed noisily up the steps, and their heavy book bags banged against the railing. Jenna took a big breath and climbed up after Marie and Lisa. She followed them past rows of dark green seats to the back of the bus. Lisa sat down and patted the seat next to her. Jenna nervously sat down. Marie plopped down beside her. They both gave her big, toothy grins.

Jenna smiled back and looked out the window where she saw her mother smiling and waving good-bye. It was then that she noticed the rain had stopped, and the dark clouds were starting to clear. The sun was beginning to shine. Jenna looked over at her two new friends and thought, “Maybe today wouldn’t be so bad after all.”



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Name _____ Date _____

Directions: Read the passage “New Girl In Town”, then circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. At the end of the story, Jenna has changed her mind about this being a bad day. What does she do that BEST shows she has changed her mind?
 - A. She agrees to ride the school bus.
 - B. She smiles at her two new friends.
 - C. She tells her mom that she looks great.
 - D. She wears new jeans and her favorite shirt.

2. How are Jenna and Marie ALIKE?
 - A. Both girls have mothers who work.
 - B. Both girls have lots of friends in school.
 - C. Both girls know how hard it is to move.
 - D. Both girls are nervous about going to school today.

3. How are Jenna’s and her mother’s feelings DIFFERENT while they are in their apartment?
 - A. Jenna is angry, while her mother is pleased.
 - B. Jenna is scared, while her mother is cheerful.
 - C. Jenna is curious, while her mother is hopeful.
 - D. Jenna is worried, while her mother is surprised.

4. What is ALIKE about Jenna and her mom today?
 - A. They both are riding a bus.
 - B. They both are going to be late.
 - C. They both are starting something new.
 - D. They both wish they could go back to bed.

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5. Which word describes BOTH Lisa and Marie?

- A. friendly
- B. nervous
- C. scared
- D. shy

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Answer Key – New Girl in Town

LA.A.2.2.7 The student identifies no more than two similar or dissimilar elements within a text or identifies how elements are alike or different within a single text.

LA.E.1.2.3 The student identifies an explanation or a simple analysis of similarities or differences between no more than two characters, within one character over time, between settings, or between events in a single text.

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